

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1-56. (canceled)

57. (currently amended) A biopsy device for tissue collection, comprising:

a housing containing a power source; and

a removable element, comprising a biopsy needle module and a pressure source, the biopsy needle module having a biopsy needle carrier, wherein the removable element is configured for integration into the housing with both the pressure source and the biopsy needle carrier being contained within the housing and with the pressure source and the biopsy needle module being spaced apart in the housing, and a hollow connecting element communicatively coupled between the biopsy needle module and the pressure source;

~~wherein the biopsy device is configured for entirely single-handed operation by a physician, the biopsy device being configured to be operationally self-contained such that an entirety of the biopsy device can be held by a single hand during a medical procedure, the biopsy device having no cables or lines extending from the housing to external units, and the biopsy device being both held and operated by the same single hand during the medical procedure.~~

58. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 57, wherein the biopsy needle module comprises a biopsy needle and a cutting sleeve, the biopsy needle comprising a sharpened distal end and a distal opening for collection of tissue, the cutting sleeve having a cutting blade on the distal end thereof and being coaxially positioned with respect to the biopsy needle.

59. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 58, wherein the pressure source comprises a vacuum pressure-generating device having a piston/cylinder arrangement, the vacuum pressure-generating device being connected to a proximal end of the biopsy needle via a connecting element, forming an airtight connection therewith.

60. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 58, further comprising a clamping carriage contained within the housing.

61. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 60, wherein the biopsy needle module can be connected to the clamping carriage such that the biopsy needle module is longitudinally displaceable by the clamping carriage.

62. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 61, further comprising a first and second drive unit contained within the housing.

63. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 62, wherein the clamping carriage is connected to the first drive unit.

64. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 63, wherein the cutting sleeve is connected to the first drive unit, the cutting sleeve being axially movable relative to the biopsy needle.

65. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 57, wherein the power source comprises at least one battery.

66. (previously presented) The biopsy device according to claim 57, wherein the housing comprises a lower housing segment with lateral walls of different heights, a housing lid matched to the lower housing segment and having a longitudinally displaceable

locking mechanism, and a first end lid and a second end lid, each connected to the lower housing segment, wherein the second end lid comprises a first U-shape opening and a second U-shape opening, wherein the first U-shape opening is configured to receive a first portion of the removable element and the second U-shape opening is configured to receive a second portion of the removable element.

67. (previously presented) The biopsy device according to claim 66, further including a guide disposed on the removable element, wherein the first end lid comprises a third U-shaped opening at the top thereof, the third U-shaped opening being sized to receive the guide of the removable element.

68. (previously presented) The biopsy device according to claim 57, wherein housing includes a lower housing segment, a housing lid matched to the lower housing segment, a first end lid and a second end lid, each of the first end lid and the second end lid being connected to the lower housing segment, wherein the second end lid comprises a first U-shape opening and a second U-shape opening, wherein the first U-shape opening is configured to receive a first portion of the removable element and the second U-shape opening is configured to receive a second portion of the removable element, and wherein a third portion of the removable element is located between the first U-shape opening and the second U-shape opening external to the housing.

69. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 57, further comprising a control panel attached to the housing, wherein the control panel is connected to the power source.

70. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 69, wherein the control panel is connected to a circuit board.

71. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 70, wherein the circuit board has a programmable microprocessor disposed thereon.

72. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 70, wherein the control panel comprises a control key for actuating a clamping cradle, a program key for actuating a tissue sampling procedure and a clamping key for triggering clamping of the clamping cradle.

73. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 72, wherein the program key is positioned between the control key and clamping key to avoid accidental actuation of the clamping cradle.

74. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 72, wherein each of the keys has a light associated therewith that indicates whether the key is active.

75. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 72, wherein the clamping key is equipped with a delay circuit to prevent inadvertent pressing thereof.

76. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 60, wherein a locking mechanism is contained within the housing to lock the clamping cradle, the locking mechanism comprising a handle having an arm, wherein the arm locks into a depression in the clamping cradle.

77. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 76, wherein the clamping cradle is comprised of a plastic material and the handle is comprised of a metal material, wherein a metal part is positioned within the depression.

78. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 76, wherein actuation of the clamping cradle causes the biopsy needle to penetrate into a patient a predetermined distance.

79. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 78, wherein the clamping cradle can be set to penetrate at a plurality of distances.

80. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 79, wherein the clamping cradle can be set to penetrate a distance which is in the range between approximately 15 mm and 25 mm.

81-91. (canceled)

92. (withdrawn) A biopsy device for tissue collection, comprising:  
a housing containing a power source and a circuit board;  
a control panel attached to the housing, wherein the control panel is connected to the power source and the circuit board; and  
a removable element, comprising a biopsy needle module and a pressure source, wherein the removable element is configured for integration into the housing;  
wherein the biopsy device can be held in a single hand of a physician, having no cables or lines extending from the housing to external units.

93. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 92, wherein the circuit board has a programmable microprocessor disposed thereon.

94. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 92, wherein the control panel comprises a control key for actuating a clamping cradle, a program key for actuating a tissue sampling procedure and a clamping key for triggering clamping of the clamping cradle.

95. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 94, wherein the program key is positioned between the control key and clamping key to avoid accidental actuation of the clamping cradle.

96. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 94, wherein each of the keys have a light associated therewith that indicates whether the key is active.

97. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 94, wherein the clamping key is equipped with a delay circuit to prevent inadvertent pressing thereof.

98. (currently amended) A biopsy device for tissue collection, comprising:  
a housing containing a power source, wherein the housing comprises a lower housing segment with lateral walls, a housing lid matched to the lower housing segment and having a longitudinally displaceable locking mechanism mounted to the housing lid and configured to engage a fastening device on the lower housing segment, and a first end lid and a second end lid, each connected to the lower housing segment; and  
a removable element, comprising a biopsy needle module and a pressure source, the biopsy needle module having a biopsy needle carrier, wherein the removable element is configured for integration into the housing with both the pressure source and the biopsy needle carrier being contained within the housing and with the pressure source and the biopsy needle module being spaced apart in the housing, and a hollow connecting element communicatively coupled between the biopsy needle module and the pressure source;  
~~wherein the biopsy device is configured for single-handed operation by a physician, the biopsy device being configured to be~~

~~operationally self-contained such that an entirety of the biopsy device can be held by a single hand during a medical procedure, the biopsy device having no cables or lines extending from the housing to external units, and the biopsy device being both held and operated by the same single hand during the medical procedure.~~

99. (previously presented) The biopsy device according to claim 98, wherein the first end lid comprises a U-shaped opening at the top thereof, the opening sized to receive a portion of the removable element.

100. (previously presented) The biopsy device according to claim 98, wherein the second end lid comprises a first U-shape opening and second U-shape opening, wherein each of the first U-shape opening and the second U-shape opening is configured to receive a respective portion of the removable element, with at least a portion of the hollow connecting element being located between the first U-shape opening and the second U-shape opening external to the housing.

101. (previously presented) A biopsy device for tissue collection, comprising:  
a housing including a lower housing segment, a housing lid matched to the lower housing segment, a first end lid, and a second end lid, each of the first end lid and the second end lid being connected to the lower housing segment, wherein the second end lid has a first U-shape opening and a second U-shape opening, and the first end lid has a third U-shape opening;  
a unitary removable element including a biopsy needle module, a pressure source, and a hollow connecting element communicatively coupled between the biopsy needle module and the pressure source;  
the unitary removable element being configured to be mounted to the housing and received at each of the first U-shape opening, the second U-shape opening and

the third U-shape opening, with the pressure source being contained in the housing, and with at least a portion of the hollow connecting element being external to said housing in a region between the first U-shape opening and the second U-shape opening to complete a fluid path that extends between the first U-shape opening and the second U-shape opening external to the housing.

102. (previously presented) The biopsy device of claim 101, wherein the biopsy needle module includes a first component configured to be received by the first U-shape opening and the pressure source includes a second component configured to be received by the second U-shape opening.

103. (previously presented) The biopsy device of claim 102, wherein the first component is a round profile component of the biopsy needle module and the second component is a nozzle portion of the pressure source.

104. (previously presented) The biopsy device of claim 103, wherein the biopsy needle module includes a biopsy needle and a cutting sleeve coaxially positioned with respect to the biopsy needle, the biopsy needle module further including a guide roller slidably disposed on said cutting sleeve, the guide roller being received by the first U-shape opening.